

## SEEKING CAR THAT KILLED VETERAN

Police Get Certain Facts, but Are Not Prepared to Arrest Anybody Yet.

Though several members of the detective force are detailed on the case, no tangible evidence has yet been obtained as to the identity of the automobile party which ran down Veteran E. B. Brittain, of the Soldiers' Home, last Tuesday night, inflicting injuries that resulted in his death.

Coroner William H. Taylor viewed the body and took statements from several attendants at the home, and the burial took place Thursday afternoon from the home. The evidence gathered by Dr. Taylor will be used after an arrest is made.

In a rather ineffectual statement after the accident, Mr. Brittain partially exonerated the driver of the car which caused his death.

He said he was returning from the Fair Grounds and was walking in the ditch beside the Boulevard, that through no fault of the chauffeur, the car skidded from the road into the ditch, struck him and broke his jawbone and leg. He said it was an accident. Dr. Taylor is very skeptical.

"If Mr. Brittain was right," he said last night, "the chauffeur did a most worthy deed, but not, however, a human nature leads me to believe that it is not on account of modesty that he now refuses to disclose his identity. Also, there seems to be no good reason why the motor car should have stolen stealthily across his identity. I believe that he was run down and was probably not in condition to make a clear statement of the case."

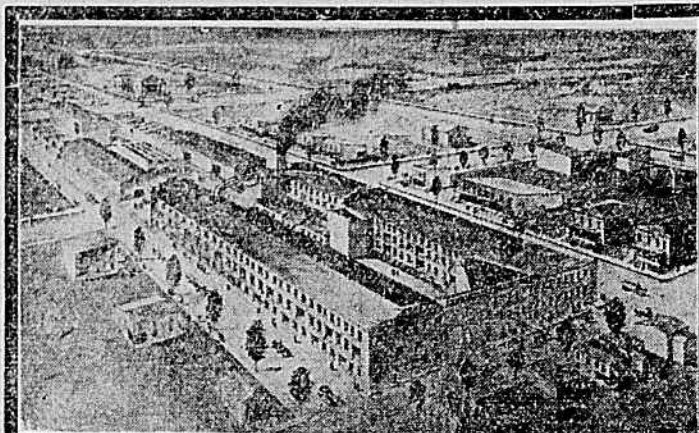
Undoubtedly the police are in possession of certain facts that point to a capture, but up to late last night they had not gathered sufficient evidence to make an arrest.

### Madden-Creegan.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)—Alexandria, Va., October 7.—Miss Ida Regina Creegan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Creegan, and James Edward Madden, the latter of Washington, were married at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning at St. Mary's Catholic Church, with a nuptial mass. The ceremony was performed by Rev. L. F. Kelly, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church, assisted by Rev. Father Morris, of Washington. The bride was attended by her sister, Miss Helen Elizabeth Creegan, and the groom had for his best man Francis Cleary, of Washington. Following the wedding a breakfast was served at the home of the bride's parents, after which the couple left for a Northern bridal trip. They will reside in Washington.

### Catchings-McKee.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)—Gloucester, Va., October 7.—Benjamin F. Catchings, of New York, and Miss Elizabeth McKee, were married Wednesday afternoon at Hope Haven, on the North River, the home of the bride's father, Colonel Joseph McKee. The house was beautifully decorated for the event, and there was a large attendance of friends and relatives of the young couple. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Luther Koonce, of Pennsylvania, cousin of the bride, assisted by Rev. William H. Rose, of the Gloucester Presbyterian Church. Following the wedding a delicious luncheon was served, following which Mr. and Mrs. Catchings left for Northern points of interest to spend their honeymoon. They will live at The Holland House, in New York.



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## ADVOCATES MILL TAX FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Virginia Education Commission Takes Up Separate Direct Tax for School Purposes—Report Prepared by Secretary Maphis, and, Receiving Approbation of Dr. Alderman, Is Received.

Launching a campaign pregnant with possibilities for the educational future of the Commonwealth, Secretary Charles G. Maphis yesterday presented to the Virginia Education Commission his report on a direct and continuous tax for the support of the public school system of Virginia. In this report, which was most favorably received by the commission, Mr. Maphis directly and positively advocates a fixed method of levying taxes for the support of the educational institutions of the State, to replace the existing practice of doubtful and indefinite appropriations by the General Assembly.

It is no exaggeration to say that in the opinion of the members of the commission, the movement for which the report is to be a basis is the most important in the history of public education in the Old Dominion, and that it is fraught with a future whose possibilities can hardly be overestimated.

### Alderman Approves.

Dr. Edwin A. Alderman, president of the University of Virginia and chairman of the commission, was outspoken in his praise of the Maphis report, and said that the arguments advanced in behalf of the change in the method of taxation could not have been stronger nor more forcibly expressed. There was a general feeling that the commission was marking an epoch in the educational life of the State, in setting its approval in general on the proposition to care for the business of public education on a scientific and businesslike basis.

As the conclusion of his researches, which have occupied months of time and endless research, Mr. Maphis recommends that there be set aside by law, from the annual revenues of the State, a sum equivalent to whatever amount will yield the necessary revenue, based on a certain number of mills on the dollar of valuation of all such property from which the school revenue is now derived. This sum is to be in lieu of all the regular appropriations for maintenance heretofore made by the General Assembly for this purpose from the State treasury.

### Separate Taxation.

In other words, should it be found by mathematical demonstration that a tax of one mill on the dollar would yield enough revenue to equal the present appropriations for primary schools, for high schools and for higher institutions of learning, then a tax should be fixed by law at that amount, the returns to be set apart for this purpose alone.

The most important good to be derived from the proposed system is that it will enable the institutions thus supported to have a fixed policy which would be in force for an indefinite period, and to make far-seeing and wise plans for future growth and needs. To quote the Maphis report: "No consistent educational policy can be carried out without some degree of dependence upon a certain income. The administrative officers of an institution must have some reasonable anticipation of the funds which can be commanded for use, if they are to plan wisely and economically."

In addition, the argument is that it would no longer be necessary to lobby before legislative committees for the necessities of life for each institution would know each year approximately what its revenues would be.

### Would Increase.

Besides, the natural growth in values of taxable property would yield increasing revenues as the needs of education developed, and would not make it necessary to convince Legislatures that more money was needed.

At the previous meeting of the Virginia Education Commission, Mr. Maphis, who is chairman of the State Board of School Examiners, was elected secretary to the commission, and was requested to conduct an investigation into the mill tax method of raising revenue for schools, as in use in other States. He has since that time corresponded with the officials of every State where such a plan was operative, and presented with his report yesterday an exhibit containing extracts from letters received from these sources.

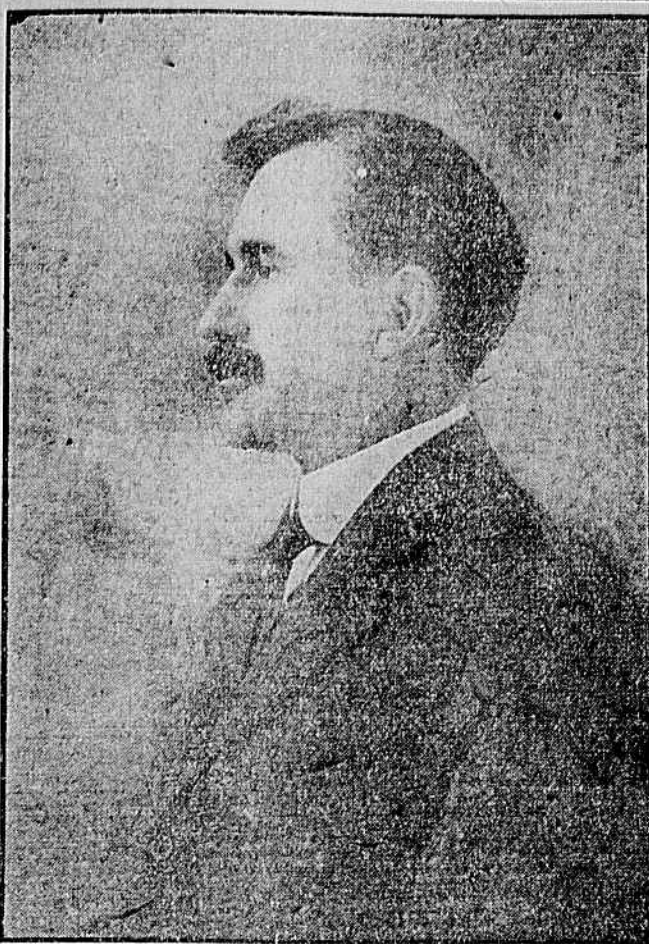
Those present at yesterday's meeting, which was held in the assembly room of the State Board of Education, were: Dr. Edwin A. Alderman, Dr. W. W. Smith, of Lynchburg, chancellor of the Randolph-Macon system; Dr. J. L. Jarman, president of the State Female Normal School at Farmville; Dr. Charles M. Hazen, of Chesterfield; Superintendent J. D. Eggleston, Jr., of the Department of Public Instruction; and Secretary Maphis.

Committee Named. At the conclusion of the hearing of the secretary's report, a committee was appointed to fully consider it, and to formulate recommendations for presentation to a meeting of the commission to be held next spring. This committee is composed of Dr. Alderman, Speaker Richard Evelyn Byrd and Mr. Maphis.

It is more than probable that the commission will prepare a formal report recommending the mill tax system to be presented to the Legislature at its next session.

In his introduction, Mr. Maphis advances the proposition that the government not only can levy taxes for the establishment and maintenance of schools, but that it is just as much its duty by this means to protect itself against ignorance and its consequences as it is to protect itself against paupers by maintaining almshouses or against criminals by providing jails and penitentiaries. A democratic community cannot endure without adequate provision for the training of all

## Favors Mill Tax for Schools



C. G. MAPHIS.

its citizenship in intelligence, in character, in leadership and economic efficiency. As a matter of life and death, therefore, the State undertakes to train its children. An educated citizen is a more valuable asset to the State than an ignorant one. He will produce more revenue and be less likely to become a liability.

**Economic Necessity.** "It is only on this ground—that of an investment—an economic necessity—that the State can justify the imposition of taxes for public education. Public education, then, is after all, an exercise by the government of the police power. It is in addition a great social and economic effort."

Further in his preliminary statement Mr. Maphis argues that "any effective school system must be an organism, instinct with life, growing and developing harmoniously in all its parts, each part receiving its due portion of nourishment and life blood, and each performing its proper function in relation to every other part, and to the whole body. Any other conception can result only in waste of funds and disappointment in results. Each part must be a co-operating part and not a hindrance. To organize, maintain and develop such a system should be the chief interest of the State, which hopes for large developments, social and industrial."

**Large Sums for Schools.** For the South as a whole, he shows, 49 per cent. of the public revenue is devoted to the business of education. In Virginia, 35.3 per cent. of the total revenue was expended in 1900 for maintenance alone, exclusive of the amount spent for building and improvements, which, if included, would bring the proportion up to more than 46 per cent. These figures apply only to

State revenues. Through local taxation a sum almost equally as large is raised for the public schools.

Four methods of appropriations are now being used, as follows: (1) Biennial appropriations; (2) annual appropriations for a term of years; (3) appropriations based on the valuation of property; (4) appropriation of a fixed percentage of the total gross revenues of the State. The latter method is used only in Tennessee.

Sixteen States have adopted the mill tax method of raising school revenues and twenty-one of the eighty-three State universities and other institutions are supported in whole or in part by a mill tax. Mr. Maphis has communicated with the presidents of all the institutions thus supported, and with State school officials and others in position to know the facts, and without exception they commend it as the most satisfactory plan known to them.

Tables of school annuities are parts of the report, the first prepared on the assumed basis of \$750,000,000 of taxable values, showing what would be the effect of a fair mill tax.

Of course, no arbitrary basis can be assumed, since no one can tell just what would be needed or what the Legislature would appropriate, but present figures are used for the purpose of demonstration.

**Rate of Division.** The first table shows that 70 per cent. of all the revenues for education in Virginia now go to the elementary schools, 24 per cent. to public high schools, 4 per cent. to normal schools and 1 per cent. to institutions for higher instruction. From year to year, with a mill tax basis, the revenues for each purpose would increase. This table gives the income if all school taxes were raised by the mill method.

Alternative plans are presented, one based on raising the revenue for elementary schools in the present manner any levying a mill tax for all other school purposes, and another based on the distribution of one-third of the gross revenue of the State. Mr. Maphis prefers the first mentioned plan.

It should be mentioned that a mill tax would not in the least increase the burdens of taxation. The mill tax for all school purposes would result in relieving the tax-payer from the present burden of \$100 of valuation for support of the public schools. In other words, it is not contemplated that more money shall be spent for schools than at present, but that the law assessing the mill tax needs fix the proportion to be received by each higher institution and by each group of other branches.

## SOUTHBOUND IS READY TO RECEIVE SHIPMENTS

Schedule of Freight Rates Filed With Corporation Commission.

Amendment to Charter. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Releigh, N. C., October 7.—The Winston-Salem Railway Company filed with the Corporation Commission Wednesday official notice that the railroad, which is being constructed jointly by the Norfolk and Western and the Atlantic Coast Line, from Winston-Salem to Wadesboro, is ready to receive car load shipments of freight from Lexington to Tuckertown, a distance of twenty-six miles, with Cotton Grove and Newsome as intermediate stations. There is the further statement that the company expects to before a great while now have the sections of road between Winston-Salem and Lexington and between Tuckertown and Wadesboro ready for traffic. It is also announced that S. P. Collier, Jr., of Wilmington, for a number of years connected with the Atlantic Coast Line, is appointed local agent for the Southbound at Winston-Salem. The company files with the commission its schedule of freight rates for the entire line, the scale of rates being about the same as now in force on the Seaboard Air Line in this State. The rates are just a little higher than the commission's standard rates.

An amendment to the charter of the Fayetteville Real Estate Company is filed with the Secretary of State, changing the name to the MacKethan Land Company, R. R. MacKethan being the president of the corporation.

### JAMES TO BE DEEPENED.

Official: Make Trip to Select Dumping Grounds for Dredges.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)—Newport News, Va., October 7.—Captain Hannon, of the United States army engineers, accompanied by Captain Young, of Richmond, and Oyster Inspector W. E. Lawson, of Hampton, made a trip up the James River Wednesday to arrange for a dumping ground for the dredges which will begin deepening the channel near the Point of Shoals lighthouse. The dumping ground was secured, and Captains Hannon and Young returned to Richmond. The dredging is to be done under the James River appropriation made by the last Congress. The trip up the river was made on the army launch Chipmunk.

## THE ELECTRO MAN, WHAT IS IT?

Performer in the Window of Chas. M. Stieff's Broad Street Store

Chas. M. Stieff, the well-known piano manufacturer, has had a figure in the window of his store, No. 295 East Broad Street, for the past few days demonstrating the Stieff Player Piano, and there is much speculation among those who have seen the exhibition as to whether the performer is an automaton or a living man. The exhibition has created a great deal of talk all over the city.

The Electro Man has been exhibited in some of the principal cities of the United States, and also in the capitals of Europe.

It is apparently an automaton, and yet it will do things that seem impossible in a mere mechanical figure.

The Electro Man will be shown each day operating the Stieff Player Piano until Saturday evening of this week, which hours are 11:30 A. M. to 1:30 P. M.; 4:30 to 6:30 P. M.; and 7:30 to 9:30 P. M., and it is something that both old and young can enjoy watching.

Come and see it, and see if you can figure out whether it is alive, or simply a mechanical figure.

The Stieff Player Pianos are so simply in construction, and so easy to play, that to say a wooden man or a wax figure can operate them would not be exaggerating.

The public is invited to stop and watch the Electro Man play the piano.

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The news at home and abroad.

The historical Confederate page.

Society news of Richmond, Washington and the States of Virginia and North Carolina.

A great Spillane story.

Over the Nuts and Wine, by Frances Courtenay Baylor, the well-known novelist.

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The unique Children's Page, made by children, and the amusing color picture pages.

A theatrical sheet, telling the news of the playhouses.

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